Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

a fairly considerable number of observed values, provided that it is not extended so far as to include a region within which the distribution of the observed quantity departs seriously from uniformity.

Princeton University Observatory. HENRY NORRIS RUSSELL.

NOTE ON THE USE OF THE GEOMETRICAL MEAN PARALLAX

In the preceding note Professor Russell has pointed out a method of including small values of radial velocities and proper-motion components in the computation of geometrical mean parallaxes according to the formulae in *Mount Wilson Contribution* No. 144. A similar method of dealing with these small quantities was actually employed in the publication cited, namely, that of placing the radial velocities or proper-motion components in a number of classes, and for each class substituting the arithmetical mean for the individual values before taking the logarithms. Thus all radial velocities smaller than 2 km., and all proper-motion components smaller than 0″.010 were put equal to 1 km. and 0″.005, respectively The difference between this method and that of Russell is slight, but the latter is probably to be preferred.

In this connection attention may be called to the fact that, if the proper motions are all very small, the geometrical-mean parallaxes are uncertain on account of the errors in the measurements. In the first place these errors are enhanced in the logarithms; and in the second place they are systematically affected by the circumstance that the arithmetical mean, disregarding the sign, of a series of very small *measured* quantities is systematically larger than the corresponding mean, corrected for observational errors, by a quantity that is of the order of magnitude of the average error in the measurements.

GUSTAF STRÖMBERG.

THE MAGNETIC POLARITY OF THE SUN-SPOT GROUP OF MARCH 21, 1920

The spot group which crossed the central meridian of the Sun on March 21, 1920, was the largest since the great group of August, 1917. Because of its connection with the aurora and magnetic storm of March 22, an account of its magnetic field may be of interest.